

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 29, 2004**

ATTENDANCE: Evonne Klein, First Selectwoman; Robert Harrel, Jr.; Dr. Joseph Miceli; Linda Santarella; Barbara Thorne

STAFF: John Crary, Administrative Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 p.m. by the First Selectwoman.

1ST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

The First Selectwoman reported that the Tokeneke School Building Committee has been selected. She reviewed the upcoming community events. The first senior newsletter should be out by May. She met with Louise Berry to discuss improvements to the website. If any of the Board members are interested, Ms. Berry has a presentation she could show to the Board. The railroad bridge work will start in 35 days.

There is an open position at SWRPA and The First Selectwoman asked the Board how they would like to proceed. The Board discussed the RTM process for acquiring minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Crary reported that he met with the DOT on a broad range of subjects. They want to make improvements to the Noroton and Darien railroad stations and parking lots. The DOT would like to see standardization of parking rates and to see those rates increased.

Mr. Crary read his written report regarding the Cherry Lawn tennis court.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of members to the Tokeneke School Building Committee

**** DR. MICELI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO
THE TOKENEKE BUILDING COMMITTEE:
BRUCE HILL
JANET GRAPENGETER**

**MARK MASSELINK
ENID ORSEMAN
STEPHEN POMPONI
JEFFREY SIBILIO
DOUGLAS VANDERHORN
JOHN WHITEHEAD**

**** MS. THORNE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Santarella said that they were extraordinarily fortunate to have these people on the Committee, and to everyone who came in, a big thank you and the best of luck. Ms. Thorne said that it is an outstanding, interesting and varied group.

- B. Discuss and Vote on IT Committee recommended appropriation of \$109,050
– to implement the Technology Assessment Report

The First Selectwoman said that the IT Committee will meet next week and that she would like to move forward on this. The Board discussed the merits of implementing the technology and how it would save time, energy and effort so the public can directly access government.

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED
APPROPRIATION OF \$109,050 TO IMPLEMENT THE TECHNOLOGY
ASSESSMENT REPORT
** MS. THORNE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- C. Discuss and Vote on letter to CL&P regarding the proposed new electric line
that will require trenching Post Road

The Board discussed revising the letter and adding the two fire departments on the Post Road.

**** MS. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE LETTER WITH REVISIONS
** DR. MICELI SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- D. Resolution to approve three year agreement with the Public Works Union of
AFSCME

**** DR. MICELI MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS
UNION HAVE BEEN ONGOING SINCE THE SPRING OF 2003, AND**

WHEREAS, THE PRINCIPAL AREAS OF NEGOTIATION INCLUDE INCREASED SALARIES FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIT AND INCREASED EMPLOYEE COST SHARING FOR MEDICAL, DRUG AND DENTAL EXPENSES, AND

WHEREAS, THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEES OF THE TOWN AND THE PUBLIC WORKS UNION HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE TERMS OF A NEW AGREEMENT AND HAVE RECOMMENDED ITS ADOPTION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPROVES THE PROPOSED THREE YEAR AGREEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS UNION AND REFERS THE AGREEMENT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING (RTM) FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION

**** MS. SANTARELLA SECONDED**

Mr. Crary explained that this agreement is based on the same agreement they have with the Town Hall staff.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. Discussion with representatives of Post 53 of their expense allowance proposal

Mr. Dick Koch, representing Post 53, requested fine tuning the proposed ordinance. Unless there was an inter-municipality agreement 10 of the 33 people in their organization would not be able to benefit from the proposal because they are not residents of Darien.

Mr. Koch said that in an effort to move forward, he would be happy to re-write the ordinance, because it would mean so much to so many who give so much to the Town.

Ms. Thorne said that she would like to work with Post 53 to figure out the best way to do this. She said that she was concerned that it may set up two classes of people and would like to go forward with what has been proposed, but continue with conversations. Ms. Santarella said that the issue needs further discussion, but added that she supports this whole heartedly. The First Selectwoman said that she will add this item to a future agenda for further discussion. Ms. Thorne asked how the inter-municipality agreement would be negotiated. The First Selectwoman said that she would find out.

- F. Discuss and Vote on request of the Darien Chamber of Commerce to hold their annual sidewalk sales on July 9 and 10 with preview on July 8th

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO GRANT THE REQUEST OF THE DARIEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL SIDEWALK SALES ON JULY 9 AND 10 WITH A PREVIEW ON JULY 8TH**

**** MR. THORNE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- G. Discuss and Vote on request of the Joshua House Fund to hold a Walk-a-Thon on May 16th. *Withdrawn*

- H. Agenda Review of upcoming subjects:

The Board discussed items they would like to see on future agendas.

1. Election of Acting First Selectman in case of the temporary absence or illness of First Selectman
2. Changing the time limits for downtown parking
3. SWRPA – follow up opportunities
4. Invitations to Appointed Committee and Commissions to future Board of Selectmen meetings
5. Charter Revision
6. Report on property tax appeals
7. Downtown task force
8. Revisit Post 53
9. Quarterly report from the High School committee
10. Quarterly report from the Tokeneke Building Committee
11. Fireworks
12. Charter Review

- I. Budget Transfers

- a. Personnel Department

To pay Labor Counsel fees through the end of the fiscal year. These expenses have exceeded budget due to protracted contract negotiations and arbitration with the Public Works Union.

**** DR. MICELI MOVED THE FOLLOWING**

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

From: Acct. No. A0993006-86600 Contingency Account for \$17,000

To: Acct. No. A0115102-82007 Labor Counsel for \$17,000

**** MS. THORNE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Administrative Officer

To provide the funds to pay for legal services of the Town Counsel through June 30, 2004. Legal bills for the year have been especially heavy due to the extensive Procaccini matter, an on-going case involving a landfill in New Jersey and disputes involving the proper valuation of properties for tax purposes.

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED THE FOLLOWING**

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance

From: Acct. No. A0993006-86600 Contingency for \$60,000

To: Acct. No. A0115092-82007 Town Counsel for \$60,000

**** MS. THORNE SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS

Consider and take action on the following reappointments:

**** MS. THORNE MOVED THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENTS**

- a. Parks and Recreation Commission – Caroline Luz (D) and John Davis (D) for terms expiring on 3/31/07**
- b. Information Technology Committee – Patricia Watson (D) for a term expiring on 4/1/06**
- c. Youth Commission – Kevin O’Halloran (D) for a term expiring on 3/31/07**

**** DR. MICELI SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC COMMENT

The First Selectwoman recognized Gene Coyle who spoke about the War Memorial for the Town. He said that there seems to be some miscommunication about finding a suitable location. The First Selectwoman said that this issue will be discussed when she receives a recommendation for the location of the War Memorial from the Monuments Committee.

**** MS. THORNE MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Service